**Writing Prompts**

**Interviewer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Interviewee: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

The writing prompts for the English 10 final tend to fall into certain **thematic** categories. Therefore, students can prepare by compiling a list of story ideas addressing the typical themes. With luck, you will be able to draw upon a previously planned narrative to assist you during the exam.  Try brainstorming and developing a narrative related to each of the categories outlined below.

**Past Exam Prompts Brainstorm/List – connect to self and/or literature (short stories, poetry, movies and Romeo and Juliet)**

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| **Tell me about a time when you overcame challenges/dealt with adverse circumstances/learned an important lesson***.*   * Self-awareness leads to meaningful change. * Challenging circumstances lead to positive actions. * Each stage of life brings new choices. * Adapting to new situations in life is essential. * Certain events change our impression of life. |  |
| **Tell me about a time you demonstrated responsibility/independence/maturity***.*   * With independence comes increased responsibility. * Our views of the past change as we mature. * Certain experiences can mark the beginning of maturity. * Keeping an open mind allows for growth. * Our journey into the future begins in the past. * Taking charge of your own life is worthwhile. |  |

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| **Tell me about your family/relationships/connections with others in the community***.*   * Role models influence our lives. * Experiences shape relationships. * We learn the most from the people closest to us. * Forming meaningful connections may enrich lives |  |
| **Tell me about your values/character***.*   * The important things in life endure over time. * A good life does not have to be complex. * The best gifts are the simplest ones. * It is important to have a realistic view of life. * Being sincere is important. |  |
| **Tell me about an “interesting” experience/unexpected events/surprises/change.**   * Differing points of view make life interesting. * Surprise can make life interesting. * The pursuit of freedom involves change. |  |

It’s a good idea to start with some kind of a **“hook”,** and to give consideration to expressive elements of language.

It’s also a good idea to be positive. Even though there’s nothing on the rubric about it, it’s good for the marker to be thinking “She sounds like a nice kid.” Show some human fault or foible in yourself, and explain how you hope you’ve grown from the experience. Everyone likes genuine humility and honesty in others. Above all, avoid second-person prescriptions “You should. . .”

The topics most often ask students to discuss a person or an experience that caused them to change, or from which they learned something important. Another topic thread has to do with quality of life—generally the idea that simplicity is good. The challenge, I think, is for students to avoid clichés while also avoiding being too cute or clever.

There’s no short-cut around the fact that upper level papers are well-written and engaging.

**Here’s a list of Provincial Exam writing topics. They use exactly the same kinds of topics on the English 10 exam as on the English 12 exam.**

People learn from a variety of sources.  
The lessons we learn affect our future.   
Satisfaction comes from helping others.  
Our toughest struggles in life come from ourselves.  
Culture is often expressed through the arts.  
People’s lives are enriched by connections with past generations.  
Self-awareness leads to meaningful change.  
Role models influence our lives.  
Certain events change our impressions of life.  
Experiences shape relationships.  
Our views of the past change as we mature.  
The best gifts are the simplest ones.  
Memories influence our lives.  
We learn the most from people closest to us.  
Our journey into the future begins in the past.  
Certain experiences can mark the beginnings of maturity.  
Challenging circumstances lead to positive actions.  
Forming meaningful connections may enrich lives.  
People can be influenced by their environment.  
Sometimes people are unable to control the directions their lives take.  
People can create their own reality.  
Taking advantage of opportunities can be beneficial.  
Each stage of life brings new choices.  
A good life does not have to be complex.  
It is important to have a realistic view of life.  
Surprises can make life interesting.  
Adapting to new situations in life is essential.  
Being sincere is important.  
Taking charge of your own life is worthwhile.  
The pursuit of freedom involves change.  
Keeping an open mind allows for growth.  
The important things in life endure over time  
  
  
Email me if you have any questions **jdeboer@summer.com**

Just a reminder - REVIEW previous exams which can be found on the Ministry of Education website.  Exams are posted there with the answer keys.  Look for the terms that are found in the multiple choice questions.  Also, have a look at the overall theme, and give some thought on how you would have responded to the questions.  Read over the short story, poem, and newspaper excerpt.  Just practice!    
  
<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/search/>  
  
   
  Before Friday, June 21st, think about some moments in your life when you were moved by someone's actions/thoughts.    Think about a time when you discovered something that changed your perception/understanding of the world/of life.  We are all human beings and it's important to tap into and reflect on what makes us human/alive.  Think about mistakes that you made and how you were improved/made better.  Recall the stories, play and novels we read in class and think about the characters and how their lives connect to universal themes.  Find meaning in the different places in your life (an event, a memory, a person, etc.) and try to connect it to the writing prompt/theme.   Remember to have a beginning (hook), a middle and a conclusion to your writing.  Remember transitions and word choice.  Write on one topic/idea. Be cohesive!  Hook must connect to thesis and thesis must be explained in essay.